

Beneficiary Impact

Under the Section 641 demonstration beneficiaries will save 55 to 90% of what it might cost them to purchase these drugs from a pharmacy over the course of the year. Lower income beneficiaries who qualify for a reduced level of out-of-pocket cost sharing will usually save almost 90 percent.

The more expensive a drug, the greater the percentage of savings to beneficiaries. Those who face the highest expenses get the highest benefit.

Examples of savings (assuming “average” dosage and use) over a year for the most expensive conditions and drugs:

- **A patient with Chronic Myelogenous Lymphoma using the drug Gleevec could save 88 percent of a cost that might reach \$46,000.**
- **A patient with Multiple Myeloma using Thalomid could save 82 percent of a cost that might reach \$24,000.**
- **A patient with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension using Tracleer could save 86 percent of a cost that might reach \$36,000.**

Almost equally large savings will be available for other diseases and drugs. For example:

- **Patients with Multiple Sclerosis using drugs for that condition may save 75 percent of costs.**
- **Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis using drugs for that condition may save 75 percent of costs.**

Even for conditions involving less expensive drugs there will be substantial savings. For example, a lung cancer patient (non-small cell) using Iressa could save 58 percent of costs.

Taking into account low income subsidies, savings for lower income patients will be even greater. For almost all diseases and drugs covered under the demonstration, these patients will have savings of 82 to 99 percent.

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Beneficiaries will also benefit by avoiding the need for doctor visits and intravenous injections. This will reduce the potential for medical complications and improve both accessibility and quality of care.